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CIVIL WAR II

KINGPIN

EARTH'S HEROES RECENTLY PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE THE FUTURE. THOUGH THE JURY'S STILL OUT ON THE ETHICS OF ULYSSES' POWERS, THE HEROES HAVE USED THE KID'S ABILITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON CRIME—PICKING UP WOULD-BE CRIMINALS BEFORE THEY EVEN BREAK THE LAW.

THIS NEW "PREDICTIVE JUSTICE" HAS MADE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. BUT LUCKILY FOR WILSON FISK, A.K.A. THE KINGPIN—RECENTLY RETURNED TO MANHATTAN AFTER A STINT AS THE CRIME BOSS OF SAN FRANCISCO—HE HAS A MAN IN HIS EMPLOY NAMED JANUS JARDEESH, WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO OPERATE UNDER ULYSSES' RADAR. JANUS HAS BEEN FEELING ILL LATELY, CONVENIENTLY PREVENTING HIM FROM ACCOMPANYING FISK ON A RECENT OUTING—ONE THAT WAS CUT SHORT BY THE EXPLOSION OF FISK'S CAR...

RED IN TOOTH AND CLAW

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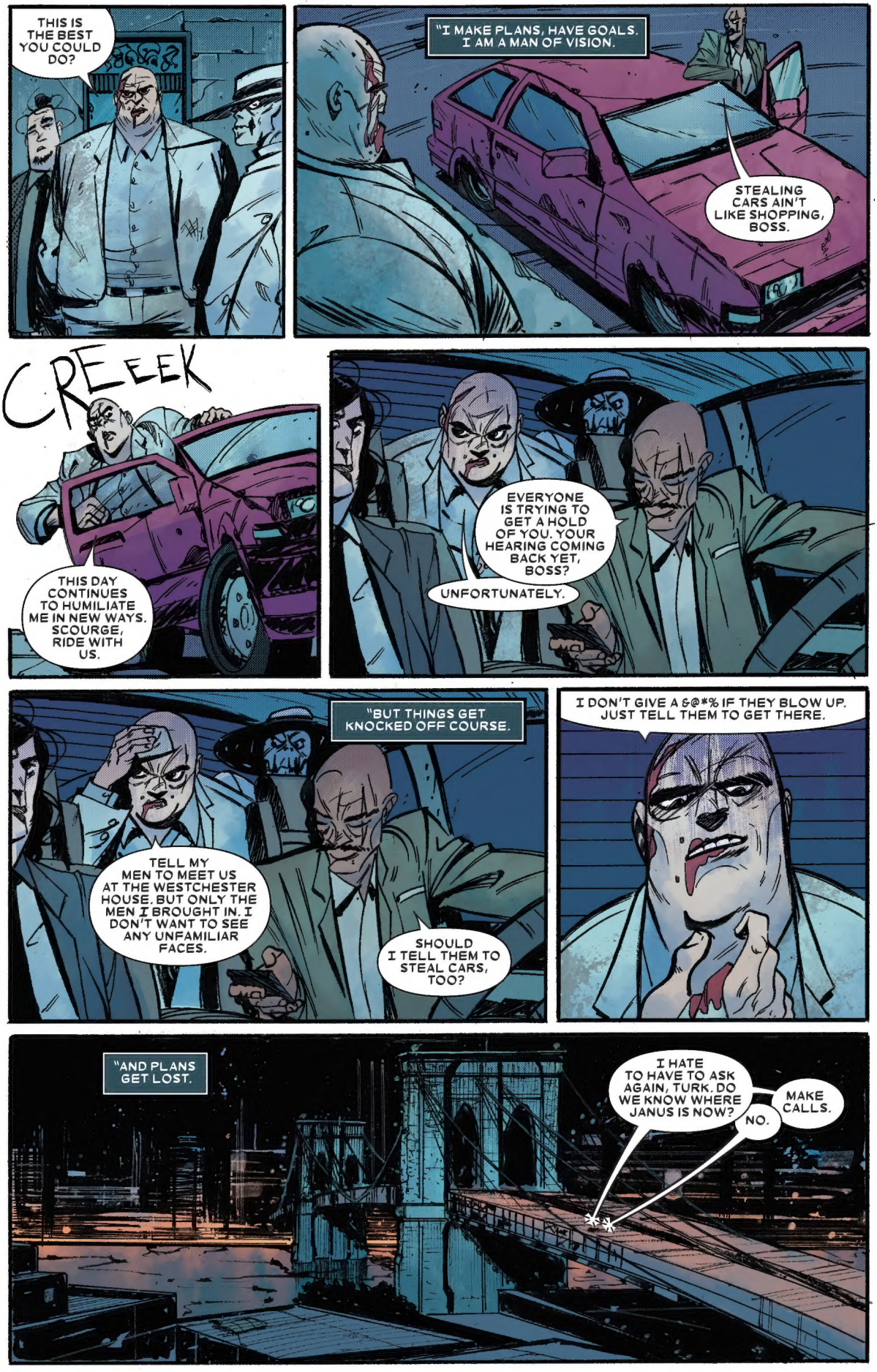
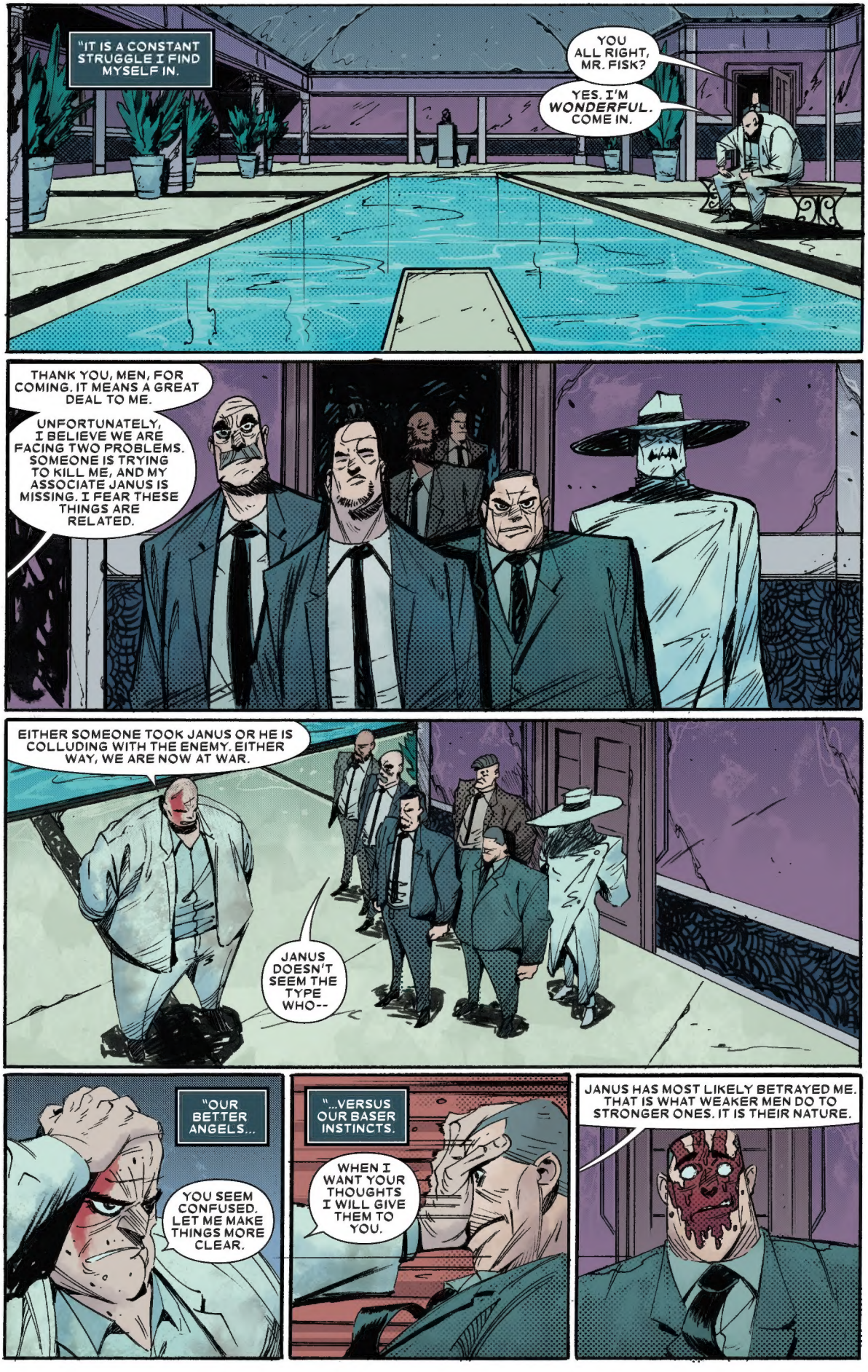
SLP-0722
BLAM
"THEY THINK WE'RE SIMILAR, YOU AND I.
"PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT I LIKE THIS LIFE.
GLURK
"THAT I LIKE HAVING PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT TRY TO KILL ME.
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
"THAT I LIKE HAVING TO KILL THEM.
SNAP
SLP-0722
CLICK

"IT'S ENDLESS.
FWOOM
I...I CAN'T HEAR.
HELLO? HELLO?
TURK, I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
WE'RE LEAVING. NOW.
STEAL US A CAR. I DON'T NEED TO EXPERIENCE ANOTHER EXPLOSION TODAY.
WHERE'S JANUS?
HAVE SOMEONE FIND HIM AND BRING HIM TO ME.


THIS IS THE BEST YOU COULD DO?
"I MAKE PLANS, HAVE GOALS. I AM A MAN OF VISION.
STEALING CARS AIN'T LIKE SHOPPING, BOSS.
CREEEK
THIS DAY CONTINUES TO HUMILIATE ME IN NEW WAYS. SCOURGE, RIDE WITH US.
EVERYONE IS TRYING TO GET A HOLD OF YOU. YOUR HEARING COMING BACK YET, BOSS?
UNFORTUNATELY.
"BUT THINGS GET KNOCKED OFF COURSE.
TELL MY MEN TO MEET US AT THE WESTCHESTER HOUSE. BUT ONLY THE MEN I BROUGHT IN. I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY UNFAMILIAR FACES.
SHOULD I TELL THEM TO STEAL CARS, TOO?
I DON'T GIVE A &@*% IF THEY BLOW UP. JUST TELL THEM TO GET THERE.
"AND PLANS GET LOST.
I HATE TO HAVE TO ASK AGAIN, TURK. DO WE KNOW WHERE JANUS IS NOW?
NO.
MAKE CALLS.

WHO ARE YOU?
TYLER, SIR.
WHO HIRED YOU, TYLER?
JANUS, SIR.
ACK--!
GAH--!
HANG ON. I'LL CALL YOU BACK.
"IT MEANS I HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS."
KRSSHH
NO UNFAMILIAR FACES.

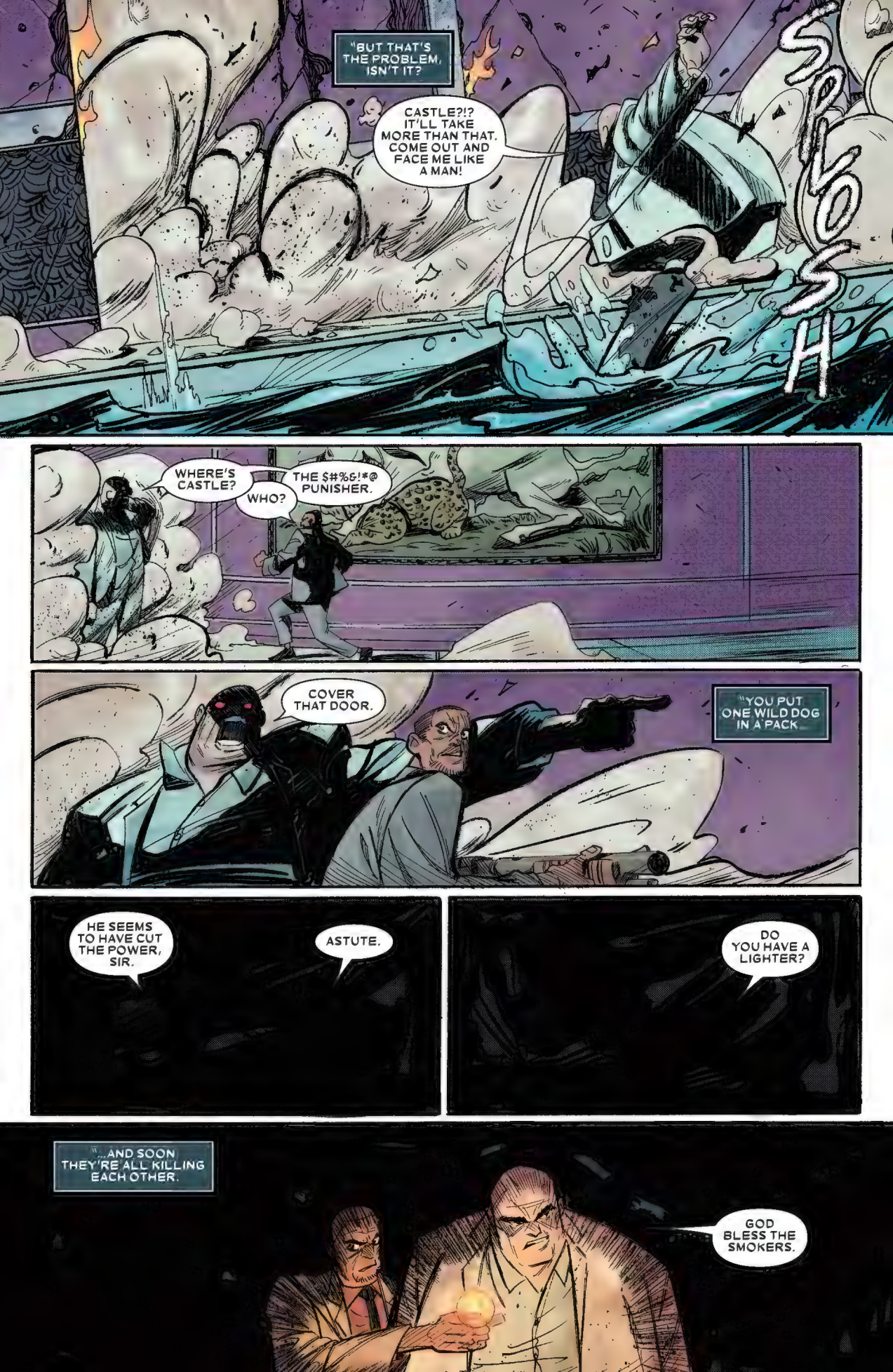
"WHY AM I SO BRUTAL?
WELCOME HOME, SIR. WE HAVE A BATH RUNNING SO YOU CAN GET CLEANED UP BEFORE YOUR GUESTS ARRIVE.
NO, BRISSON. I WANT THEM TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
A LOT OF OUR GUYS SEEM TO HAVE COME UP MISSING. YOUR BOY COULD BE ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW.
TAKE OX, GROTTO, AND LADY BULLSEYE. FIND JANUS AND KILL WHOEVER HE IS WITH.
KILL THEM?
AT THIS POINT I ASSUME THEY EITHER KIDNAPPED HIM OR CONSPIRED WITH HIM. EITHER WAY, YES.
WHAT ABOUT THAT CRIME PREDICTION STUFF? I CAN'T JUST--
GO.
"BECAUSE *NATURE* GIVES ME NO CHOICE.

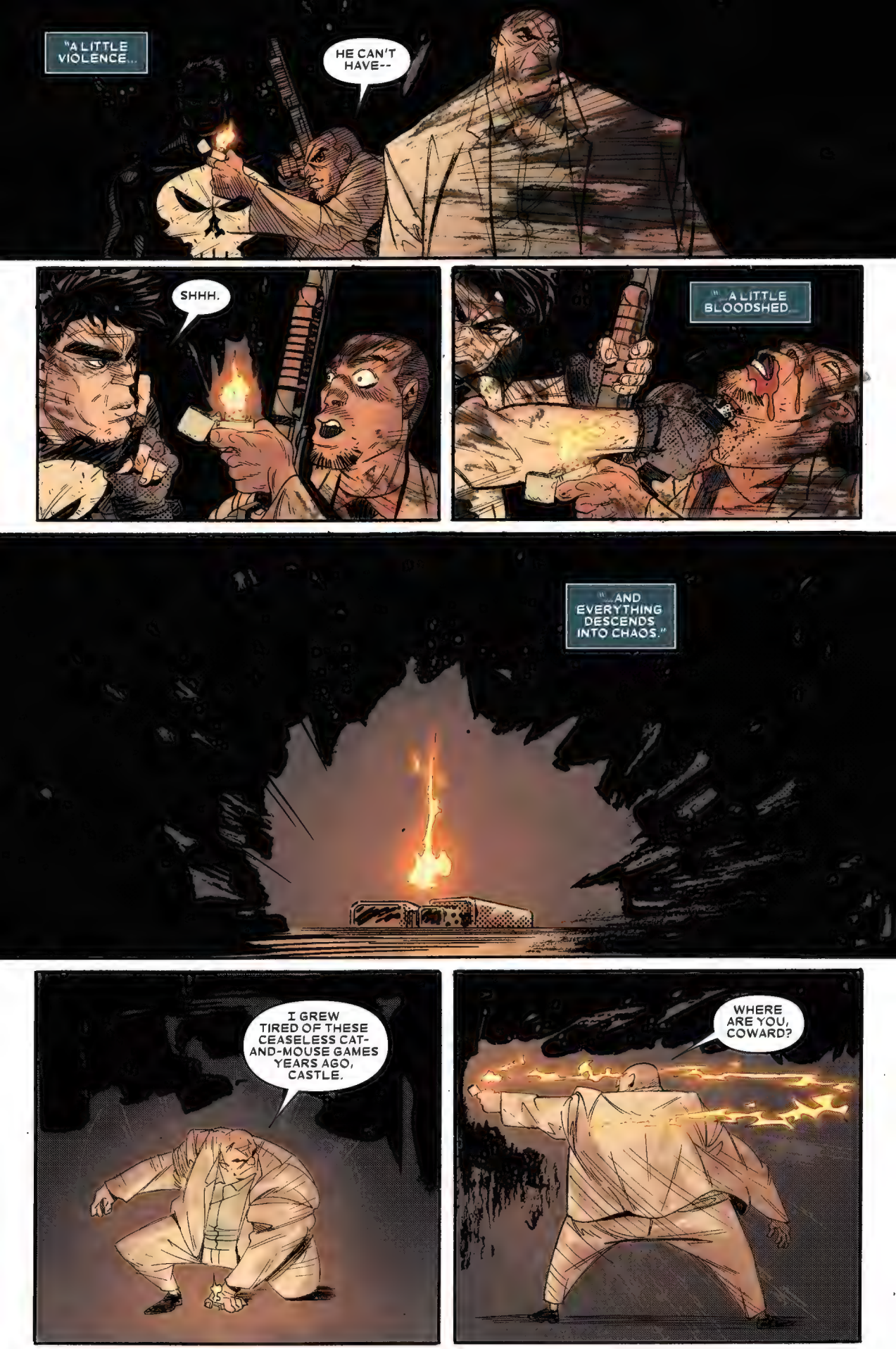

"IT IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE I FIND MYSELF IN.
YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. FISK?
YES. I'M *WONDERFUL.* COME IN.
THANK YOU, MEN, FOR COMING. IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME.
UNFORTUNATELY, I BELIEVE WE ARE FACING TWO PROBLEMS. SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME, AND MY ASSOCIATE JANUS IS MISSING. I FEAR THESE THINGS ARE RELATED.
EITHER SOMEONE TOOK JANUS OR HE IS COLLUDING WITH THE ENEMY. EITHER WAY, WE ARE NOW AT WAR.
JANUS DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE WHO--
"OUR BETTER ANGELS...
YOU SEEM CONFUSED. LET ME MAKE THINGS MORE CLEAR.
"...VERSUS OUR BASER INSTINCTS.
WHEN I WANT YOUR THOUGHTS I WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU.
JANUS HAS MOST LIKELY BETRAYED ME. THAT IS WHAT WEAKER MEN DO TO STRONGER ONES. IT IS THEIR NATURE.

HE BETRAYED ME, AS I AM SURE ALL OF YOU STAY UP AT NIGHT FANTASIZING ABOUT.
HE JUST HAD THE GUTS TO TRY.
YOU HAVE US MISTAKEN, MR. FISK. WE WOULD NEVER--
JANUS IS A MAN OF SOME IMPORT TO ME.
HE IS NOT JUST BLIND AMBITION AND A TRIGGER FINGER. I WAS GROOMING HIM. I CARE... *CARED* ABOUT HIM.
SO WHEN I SAY THAT IF HE DOESN'T TURN UP SOON WITH A GOOD EXPLANATION I WILL SEE HIS HEAD ON A STAKE OUTSIDE MY FRONT GATE, *TAKE NOTE.*
NOBODY SITS IN MY %$$&!*# THRONE UNTIL I'M SIX FEET UNDER--
ENOUGH TALK.

STOP HIM!
DON'T LET HIM GET TO MR. FISK!
OOOF
BLAM
HE'S TOO STRONG!
KSHUNK!
"I'VE SPENT MY LIFE TRYING TO RISE ABOVE THIS NATURE.
"CLAWING. TRYING TO PULL EVERYONE I CAN WITH ME.
HOLD HIM.
"BUT *NATURE* ALWAYS DRAGS US BACK DOWN.
NOW, NOW, SCOURGE. WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?
RRRIP
OH.
HELLO, FRANK.

"OUR NATURE IS VIOLENCE, AND REVENGE, AND POWER STRUGGLES.
WHAT AN AWKWARD TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN THE PARTY.
FRISK HIM.
HOW'S YOUR DAY BEEN SO FAR, WILSON?
I'VE HAD WORSE.
PAT PAT
WHAT THE HELL IS--?
FRONT TOWARD ENEMY
BOMB!
BOOM
"THESE ARE THINGS I NO LONGER WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH.

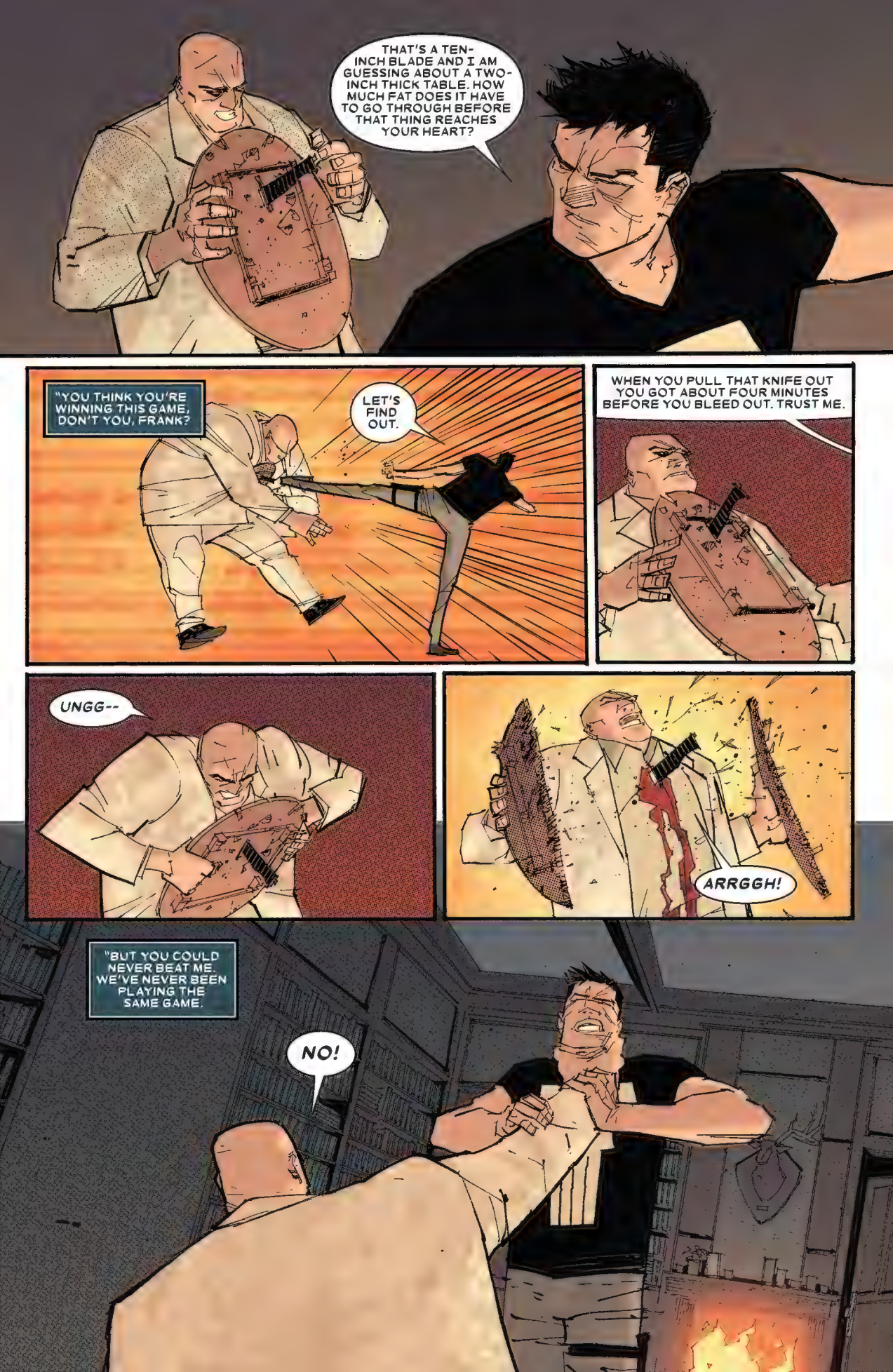

"BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?
CASTLE?!? IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT. COME OUT AND FACE ME LIKE A MAN!
SPLOSH
WHERE'S CASTLE?
WHO?
THE $#%&!*@ PUNISHER.
COVER THAT DOOR.
"YOU PUT ONE WILD DOG IN A PACK
HE SEEMS TO HAVE CUT THE POWER, SIR.
ASTUTE.
DO YOU HAVE A LIGHTER?
"...AND SOON THEY'RE ALL KILLING EACH OTHER.
GOD BLESS THE SMOKERS.


"A LITTLE VIOLENCE...
HE CAN'T HAVE--
SHHH.
"...A LITTLE BLOODSHED...
"...AND EVERYTHING DESCENDS INTO CHAOS."
I GREW TIRED OF THESE CEASELESS CAT-AND-MOUSE GAMES YEARS AGO, CASTLE.
WHERE ARE YOU, COWARD?

"I TRY TO CLEAN UP THIS CITY.
"I TRY TO BRING PEACE BETWEEN WARRING FAMILIES.
BRISSON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE HAVE--
MMMPPH!
"I TRY TO ELEVATE MAN ABOVE HIS NATURE.

"AND THEN #$*@!$$ LIKE YOU COME AND RUIN EVERYTHING.
CHOOM
KRAK
CH-CHK
I GOT YOU, YOU--
CHOOM
AAAAHH!!
OOF!

"I DON'T WANT TO DO IT ANYMORE.
I'M GLAD MY LITTLE CAR BOMB MISSED YOU, WILSON.
"THE KILLING. THE DEATH. THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT IN THE CROSSFIRE.
THIS IS HOW YOU WERE HOPING THINGS WOULD GO, CASTLE?
"I DON'T WANT TO STOOP TO YOUR LEVEL ANYMORE.
I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING MORE PERSONAL.
IT WAS YOUR SON'S GUYS THAT STABBED YOU UP, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU DARE--
HUUUUH!


THAT'S A TEN-INCH BLADE AND I AM GUESSING ABOUT A TWO-INCH THICK TABLE. HOW MUCH FAT DOES IT HAVE TO GO THROUGH BEFORE THAT THING REACHES YOUR HEART?
"YOU THINK YOU'RE WINNING THIS GAME, DON'T YOU, FRANK?
LET'S FIND OUT.
WHEN YOU PULL THAT KNIFE OUT YOU GOT ABOUT FOUR MINUTES BEFORE YOU BLEED OUT. TRUST ME.
UNGG--
ARRRGGH!
"BUT YOU COULD NEVER BEAT ME. WE'VE NEVER BEEN PLAYING THE SAME GAME.
NO!

"I'M TRYING TO CREATE SOMETHING..."
...AND YOU JUST WANT TO WATCH IT BURN.
GREAT *COUGH* STORY, WILSON.
THAT WHAT YOU TELL YOURSELF AT NIGHT *COUGH* TO JUSTIFY KILLING EVERYONE WHO GETS CLOSE TO YOU?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FINALLY UNDERSTAND. ALL THIS SUFFERING AND DEATH? THE INNOCENT PEOPLE. MY FAMILY. MY FRIENDS...*YOUR* FAMILY....
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE *YOU*.
PTOO!
ENOUGH!

BEFORE I DIE I WILL SEE YOU BURN.
WHAK
NO!
KSSHH

ARRGGHHHH!!
THUD

HAVE TO...
...GET...
UGGGH!
...HELP...
WILSON FISK!

THIS IS S.H.I.E.L.D.! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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